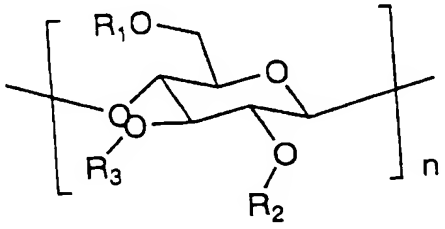
CLAIMS:

1. A liquid crystal mixed-composition comprising one or more cellulose derivatives and one or more liquid crystal compounds which can be oriented in a specific direction differing from that of said cellulose derivative.

2. The liquid crystal mixed-composition according to claim 1, wherein the ratio by weight of said one or more cellulose derivatives to said one or more liquid crystal compounds which can be oriented in a specific direction differing from that of said cellulose derivative is in a range from 1 : 9 to 9 : 1.

3. The liquid crystal mixed-composition according to claim 2, wherein the cellulose derivative has the following structure:



(1)

wherein R_1, R_2 and R_3, which may be the same or different, respectively represent a hydrogen atom or a substituent, provided that R_1, R_2 and R_3 are not all hydrogen atoms and n denotes an integer of 10 or more;

4. The liquid crystal mixed-composition according to claim 3, wherein at least one of R_1, R_2 and R_3 is a group selected from group consisting of an acyloxyalkyl group and a carbamoyloxyalkyl

group and the remainders are hydrogen atoms.

5. The liquid crystal mixed-composition according to claims 1 to 4, wherein the liquid crystal compound which can be oriented in another specific direction is a low-molecular liquid crystal compound having a molecular weight of 1000 or less.

6. The liquid crystal mixed- composition according to claim 5, wherein the low-molecular liquid crystal compound is a (meth)acrylate liquid crystal compound.

7. The liquid crystal mixed-composition according to claim 6, wherein the (meth)acrylate liquid crystal compound is an acrylate compound represented by the following formula (2):

$H_2C=CHCOO-(X)_n-O-Y-Z$

wherein X represents a methylene group which may be substituted with a methyl group or a phenyl group, Y represents a divalent group in which two to four rings selected from the group consisting of a benzene ring and a cyclohexane ring are connected by a single bond or a connecting group, where these rings may be respectively substituted with one or two C1-C6 alkyl groups or phenyl groups and Z represents a cyano group, an aliphatic group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, an aliphatic oxy group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms or $-O-(X)_n-OCOCH=CH_2$.

8. A lyotropic liquid crystal mixed-composition comprising the mixed-composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7

and an organic solvent, the composition exhibiting a lyotropic liquid crystal state.

9. The liquid crystal mixed-composition according to claim 8, the composition further comprising a reactive compound and a photoinitiator.

10. The liquid crystal mixed-composition according to claim 8, wherein the reactive compound is a (meth)acryl compound.

11. A retardation film produced from the liquid crystal mixed-composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the liquid crystal mixed-composition is oriented in a specific direction;

12. The retardation film according to claim 11, wherein the relation Re450 ≤ Re550 ≤ Re650 is established between the retardation value (Re450) measured at a wavelength of 450 nm, the retardation value (Re550) measured at a wavelength of 550 nm and the retardation value (Re650) measured at a wavelength of 650 nm;

13. The retardation film according to claim 11 or 12, the film being produced by forming a layer of the liquid crystal mixed-composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10 on the rubbed substrate and by orienting the liquid crystal.

14. The retardation film according to claim 13, the orientation of the liquid crystal mixed-composition is fixed.

15. The retardation film according to claim 11, the film having a retardation of a quarter wavelength or a half wavelength.

16. A circularly or elliptically polarizing film or a rotary polarizing film obtained by laminating the retardation film as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 15 and a polarizing film.

17. An image display device comprising the retardation film as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 15 or the circularly or elliptically polarizing film as claimed in claim 16.

18. A method of producing a retardation film according to claim 13, the method comprising forming a layer using the liquid crystal mixed-composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10 on a rubbed substrate, followed by heat treatment.

19. The method of producing a retardation film according to claim 18, wherein the relation $Re450 \leq Re550 \leq Re650$ is established between the retardation value (Re450) measured at a wavelength of 450 nm, the retardation value (Re550) measured at a wavelength of 550 nm and the retardation value (Re650) measured at a wavelength of 650 nm by carrying out heat treatment at 40°C to 100°C.